Amendments to and listing of the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Original) A composition having a viscosity of 150cp or less at 25°C and comprising (i) chitosan, a salt or derivative thereof or a salt of a derivative thereof, (ii) a polyol-phosphate or sugar-phosphate salt, (iii) a plasticizer, and (iv) a therapeutic agent.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The composition according to claim 1 in the form of an aqueous solution or suspension.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The composition according to claim ~~1 or 2,~~1, which forms a gel at a temperature 30 °C or greater.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The composition according to claim 3, which forms a gel in 15 minutes or less at a temperature of from 30 to 40 °C.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The composition according to claim 4, which forms a gel in 15 minutes or less at a temperature of from 35 to 37 °C.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The composition according to ~~any one of the preceding claims,~~claim 1, wherein the plasticizer is triethyl citrate.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The composition as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims,~~claim 1, wherein the chitosan, salt or derivative thereof or salt of a derivative thereof has a molecular weight of 4000 Dalton or greater.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The composition according to claim 7, wherein the chitosan, salt or derivative thereof or salt of a derivative thereof, has a molecular weight of from 50,000 to 300,000 Dalton.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The composition according to ~~any one of the preceding claims,~~claim 1, comprising chitosan base or a chitosan derivative that has been formed by

bonding of acyl or alkyl groups with the hydroxyl groups of the chitosan or a nitrate, phosphate, sulphate, citrate, hydrochloride, glutamate, lactate or acetate salt of chitosan.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The composition according to ~~any one of the preceding claims,~~claim 1, wherein the chitosan has a degree of deacetylation of 40 % or greater.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The composition according to claim 12, wherein the degree of deacetylation is from 70 to 90 %.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The composition according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~claim 1, comprising from 0.25 to 3.0 % w/v of chitosan, a salt or a derivative thereof or a salt of a derivative thereof expressed as chitosan base.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The composition according to claim 12 comprising from 0.45 to 1.5 %w/v of chitosan, a salt or a derivative thereof or a salt of a derivative thereof expressed as chitosan base.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The composition according to ~~any one of the preceding claims,~~claim 1, wherein the therapeutic agent is present in solution or as a suspension.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The composition according to ~~any one of the preceding claims,~~claim 1, wherein the polyol-phosphate salt is β-glycerophosphate disodium.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The composition according to ~~any one of the preceding claims,~~claim 1, wherein the polyol-phosphate or sugar-phosphate salt is present in an amount of from 0.25 to 3.0 % w/v.

17. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The composition according to claim 16, wherein the polyol-phosphate or sugar-phosphate salt is present in an amount of from 0.75 to 2.0 % w/v.

18. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The composition according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~claim 1, comprising from 0.05 to 5.0 % w/v of the plasticizer.

19. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The composition as claimed in Claim 18 comprising from 0.2 to 1.0 % w/v of the plasticizer.

20. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The composition according ~~to any of the preceding claims~~claim 1, additionally comprising ascorbic acid.

21. ~~A~~The composition according to claim 20 comprising from 0.01 to 0.2 % w/v ascorbic acid.

22. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The composition according to ~~any one of the preceding claims,~~claim 1, wherein the therapeutic agent is a polar drug, a polypeptide, a gene or a gene construct.

23. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The composition according to claim 22, wherein the therapeutic agent is insulin, calcitonin, leuprolide, luteinising hormone releasing hormone, growth hormone or a growth hormone releasing factor, naratriptan, sumatriptan, zolmitriptan, rizatriptan, eletriptan, frovatriptan, alnitidan, avitriptan, almotriptan, apomorphine, sildenafil, alprostadil, diamorphine, hydromorphone, buprenorphine, fentanyl, oxycodone, codeine, morphine or morphine-6-glucuronide.

24. (Currently Amended) A drug delivery device suitable for delivery of a composition via one or more of the nasal, vaginal, rectal, oral mucosal, ophthalmic or ocular routes or a dose cartridge for use with such a device loaded with a composition as defined in ~~any one of the preceding claims.~~claim 1.

25. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of the composition as defined in ~~any one of claims 1 to 23,~~claim 1, which process comprises mixing a solution comprising chitosan or a salt or derivative thereof or a salt of a derivative thereof with a solution comprising a polyol-phosphate or sugar-phosphate salt.

26. (Original) The use of the combination of chitosan or a salt or derivative thereof or the salt of a derivative thereof, a polyol-phosphate or sugar-phosphate salt and a plasticizer in the manufacture of a medicament for use in the transport of a therapeutic agent across a mucosal surface in an animal.

27. (Original) The use of the combination of chitosan or a salt or derivative thereof or the salt of a derivative thereof, a polyol-phosphate or sugar-phosphate salt and a plasticizer in the

manufacture of a medicament for nasal, vaginal, rectal, oral mucosal, ophthalmic or ocular delivery.

28. (Currently Amended) The use of a composition as defined in ~~any one of claims 1 to 23~~claim 1, in the manufacture of a medicament for use in the transport of a therapeutic agent across a mucosal surface in an animal.

29. (Currently Amended) The use of a composition as defined in ~~any one of claims 1 to 23~~claim 1, in the manufacture of a medicament for nasal, vaginal, rectal, oral mucosal, ophthalmic or ocular delivery.

30. (Currently Amended) The use according to ~~any one of claims 26 to 29~~,claim 26, wherein the medicament is intended for local action.

31. (Currently Amended) The use according to ~~any one of claims 26 to 29~~,claim 26, wherein the medicament is intended for systemic action.

32. (Currently Amended) The use of a composition as defined in ~~any one of claims 1 to 23~~claim 1, in the administration of a therapeutic agent for transport thereof across a mucosal surface in an animal.

33. (Currently Amended) The use of a composition as defined in ~~any one of claims 1 to 23~~claim 1, in nasal, vaginal, rectal, oral mucosal, ophthalmic or ocular delivery of a therapeutic agent to an animal.

34. (Currently Amended) The use according to claim ~~32 or 33~~,32, wherein the therapeutic agent is intended for local action.

35. (Currently Amended) The use according to claim ~~32 or 33~~,32, wherein the therapeutic agent is intended for systemic action.